Death anniversaries of Bacha Khan, Wali Khan on 20th

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa president Mian Iftikhar Hussain has announced that the commemorative events marking the 38th death anniversary of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan) and the 20th death anniversary of Khan Abdul Wali Khan will begin on January 20 under the banner of "Bacha Khan Week 2026".

In a statement here on Friday, he said that the opening event would be held at Bacha Khan Markaz, Peshawar, where Khatm-i-Quran will be organised at 10am. The formal inauguration of the week-long activities will take place at noon and will be performed by ANP central president and chief executive officer of Bacha Khan Trust, Aimal Wali Khan.

He said the inaugural ceremony would include a guard of honour and parade presented by Nungyalay Pakhtoon, accompanied by the national anthem. Stalls showcasing books, artwork, handicrafts, and traditional and local attire will also be set up as part of the event.

According to Mian Iftikhar Hussain, a special session will be held during the ceremony for the launch of newly-published books produced under the auspices of Bacha Khan Research Centre.

Policeman hurt in Bajaur attack

BAJAUR: A police official sustained injuries in a firing incident carried out by unidentified assailants in Sadiqabad Bazaar here on Friday. Police and Rescue 1122 officials said the incident occurred at around 12:40pm when unknown gunmen attacked a police officer performing his routine security duty near a police post in Sadiqabad Bazaar.

The shooting left the policeman identified as constable Shahzada Umar, 39, wounded, and he was immediately rushed to the district headquarters hospital in Khar, said a statement issued by Rescue 1122 media coordinator.

Sher Zamin Khan, station house officer (SHO) of Khar stationtold reporters that a team of police personnel, led by him and DSP Abdul Aziz, instantly reached the area and launched a search operation for the attackers, who had fled the scene. He added that investigation was also underway to determine the motive behind the incident.

Meanwhile, police's timely action thwarted a sabotage attempt in Bajaur by recovering a explosive device planted in Khar bazaar, said a statement on Friday. According to the statement issued by the district police officer's office, the device, said to be a time bomb, was planted by unknown terrorists outside a shop in Shingass Market on Thursday night. The statement stated that upon receiving information about the device from the bazaar's watchmen, a team of police bomb disposal squad (BDS) reached the site and diffused the device.— Correspondent

PHC rules extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances 'menace to rule of law'

Issues directives, recommendations for improving criminal justice system

By Waseem Ahmad Shah

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar High Court has declared that extrajudicial killings, staged and fake encounters, and enforced disappearances constituted a serious menace to the rule of law, public confidence and the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

A larger bench consisting of Chief Justice SM Attique Shah, Justice Syed Arshad Ali, Justice Sahibzada Asadullah, Justice Mohammad Ijaz Khan and Justice Salahuddin declared: "No officer shall act beyond or against the law, and all law enforcement authorities are directed to prevent, report, and investigate such incidents. Any participation, complicity, or willful neglect shall attract criminal, civil, and departmental liability."

The court issued multiple directives and recommendations to stakeholders for reforming the criminal justice system (CJS), directing the provincial government to fully separate the investigation wing of the police from its operation wing with full administrative and financial autonomy.

It declared that to ensure fair, impartial, and transparent, an independent investigation cadre shall be created and all future appointments shall be made exclusively to that cadre.

The bench released a comprehensive 149-page judgement over the matter after considering the reports and arguments submitted by the stakeholders, including law, home, police, prosecution and health departments, and senior lawyers, and the suggestions made by them for improving the CJS.

"The Provincial Government is confined to the formulation of high policy and superintendence, and shall not, directly or indirectly, interfere with operational command or encroach upon the autonomy and independence of the police hierarchy in the discharge of its lawful functions."

The court declared that the law department was required to review all laws defining offences, so as to identify overlapping laws or laws creating jurisdictional confusion and address the anomalies highlighted by the bench; and, to propose appropriate amendments to the government for consolidation and clarification.

It added that an independent forensic science agency, with satellite regional offices at each divisional headquarters on the model of the Punjab Forensic Science Agency, shall be established with separate statutory status to ensure quality, authenticity and timely processing and submission of forensic reports.

The bench declared that the forensic laboratories shall function wholly independent of the operational and investigation branches and shall be run by qualified experts.

The judgement was delivered on two public interest petitions filed by a citizen Asifullah and a senior lawyer Shabbir Hussain Gigyani, respectively, related to different aspects of the CJS.

Scores of senior lawyers well versed in criminal law appeared in the matter.

The bench discussed in detail provisions of the Constitution, Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), KP Police Act, Police Order 2002, international law, etc. and put forward over a 100 directives to all the concerned stakeholders.

Directives for police and investigators: "The power of arrest shall be exercised with reasonable caution and care. Mere registration of an FIR, without sufficient material justifying arrest, shall not ordinarily warrant arrest and shall be avoided. Such discretion shall be exercised uniformly, without selectivity or discrimination," the bench ordered.

It directed that in the event of an arrest, different guarantees should be observed strictly, including: the right to be informed promptly and clearly of the grounds of arrest; the right to consult and be assisted by counsel; the right against self -incrimination; and, the absolute prohibition of torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

The bench directed that pre and post-arrest medical examinations should be strictly conducted, documented and reported to magistrate, as under Article 14 and 10-A of the Constitution no torture, coercion or unlawful confinement was permissible.

"The final report (investigation report) under section 173 CrPC shall be submitted within 14 days; failing that, an interim challan shall be submitted within the next three days," the bench declared, adding that failure without lawful justification should attract action under different provisions of the PPC and KP Police Act.

It added that false, defective, incomplete, or misleading investigation reports may attract liability under sections 166(2), 167, and 218 PPC, 118 of the Police Act as well as departmental proceedings against delinquent officers.

The bench ordered the assigning of a reasonable number of cases to each IO, and that no officer be overburdened, so as to improve the quality of investigation. "A clear SOP shall be devised whereby the number of cases assigned to each investigator is determined on objective criteria, including the number of pending cases, their nature, and their severity."

The high court declared for courts that routine remand or judicial custody orders, where challans were not submitted within statutory time, resulted in illegal and unconstitutional detention, violating Articles 4, 9 and 10A of the Constitution and must be stopped forthwith.

For lawyers, the court ruled, "Any strike, boycott, or deliberate non-appearance before the Court, as well as any act that obstructs access to justice or restrains any person from entering any Court or its premises, is illegal and unconstitutional, being violative of Article 10A of the Constitution, and may, where applicable, attract sections 174, 186(1) and 186(2) PPC for, as the case may be, intentional non-attendance before the Court, obstructing a public servant in the discharge of public functions, or hampering the course of prosecution, in addition to any other penal provisions that may be attracted on a case-to-case basis," the bench ruled while putting forward multiple directives for the lawyers."

PTI leaders want talks but Imran doesn't: Sana

Continued from Page 1

would not step back" as per the government's assessment.

"However," he added, "the PTI leaders think that if they get to meet Imran Khan, they could convince him to postpone the protest and initiate dialogue with the government."

When asked about a meeting between PTI leaders and Mr Khan, Mr Sanaullah said: "They have gone too far now; any initiation of dialogue or meeting with the PTI founder can be possible only after Feb 8." Mr Sanaullah also implied that the government would deal with the protests "administratively", and that the PTI would emerge "unsuccessful".

He advised the PTI to "play its role" in parliamentary processes and return to the committee proceedings from which it had abstained.

Who will guarantee peace after Khyber action, CM wonders

Afridi insists decisions still being made behind closed doors

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi on Friday wondered who would guarantee peace after the conclusion of the recently launched military operation in Tirah area of Khyber tribal district and said decisions were still being made behind closed doors despite repeated failures.

Addressing the operation-affected families at the Paindi Cheena registration centre in Upper Bara, Mr Afridi said the military operation was forcibly launched to the suffering of residents.

"I and my nation are being targeted for opposing such policies. We were never part of these failed policies and won't be part of them in the future," he said.

Mr Afridi said that 22 major and 14,000 small security operations had been carried out, so he just wondered who would guarantee the return of peace after the conclusion of another operation.

He said the PTI was declared the supporters of militants whenever it demanded a change of failed policies.

Meanwhile, a statement from the chief minister's secretariat quoted Mr Afridi as saying "what was happening" to the people of Tirah was unacceptable.

He said his government had always raised its voice for peace.

"I am one of you [residents] and will stand with you until my last breath," he said.

Mr Afridi said that the protection of the affected people was his responsibility and any negligence in addressing the problems of the Tirah affected families would be intolerable.

He ordered all relevant departments to take emergency measures to immediately alleviate the difficulties faced by the Tirah affected families and warned that stopping people and subjecting them to humiliation in queues would not be tolerated under any circumstances.

The chief minister ordered the establishment of additional Nadra offices on an emergency basis to expedite the registration process.

The visit to the registration centre came over the growing criticism of the administration's failure to provide facilities to the displaced families from Tirah.

Hailing from the Shalobar tribe of Tirah, the CM was also criticised by people for visiting Karachi at a time when thousands of Tirah families were stranded on the main road between Tirah and Bara. Most families had to wait for days and spend sleepless nights in severe cold to get themselves registered for the promised monetary assistance.

Police in Paindi Cheena reportedly arrested eight people for demanding money from displaced families for early registration.

Sources said that detainees collected Rs2,000 from every family for providing them with fake registration tokens and identity cards.

Meanwhile, officials of the district administration said that complete registration of 6,000 displaced families had been completed at the Paindi Cheena Centre while initial tokens were issued to 27,000 families.

Earlier, authorities alleged that hundreds of undeserving persons from Bara and Bazar Zakhakhel areas had tried to get themselves registered in order to get financial assistance.

A MAN arranges jaggery in sacks outside his shop in Gur Market, Peshawar, to attract customers.—APP

ECP issues schedule for delimitation of VCs, NCs in 24 districts

PESHAWAR: The Election Commission of Pakistan on Friday issued schedule for delimitation of village and neighborhood councils in 24 districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to a notification, the delimitation process will start from Jan 19, 2026, which will end on 20th March.

The delimitation will be carried out in Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Mohmand, Mardan, Swabi, Kohat, Orakzai, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, North Waziristan, Tank, Abbottabad, Haripur, Battagram, Torghar, Upper Kohistan, Lower Kohistan, Kolai Palas, Swat, Buner Lower Chitral, Lower Dir and Upper Dir.

As per plan of the ECP, the authorities will complete all the administrative arrangements including procurement of maps and relevant data as well as training of delimitation committees and delimitation authorities from 19th January till 2nd February.

From 3rd February till 4th March, the preliminary list of village and neighborhoods councils will be prepared by the delimitation committees.

The preliminary list of the village and neighborhoods councils would be published for inviting objections, while objections will be filed before the delimitation authorities from 6th March till 25th March (excluding Eidul Fitr holidays). April 8 has been fixed as the last date for disposal of objections by the delimitation authorities while the delimitation authorities will communicate decisions to delimitation committees on 15th April.

The final lists of delimitation of village and neighbourhood councils by the delimitation committees would be notified on 20th April.—Bureau Report

Senators for keeping tabs on social media usage by under-18s

Continued from Page 1

underscored the risks of unmonitored social media use for minors.

She called for a comprehensive legal framework and urged the government to introduce mandatory age verification, parental supervision and other protective measures.

She also demanded restrictions on the use of TikTok, Instagram, VPNs and similar tools by children below 18. "The matter is serious in nature and immediate and serious steps should be taken to prevent children from further dangers of social media," she said, seeking a briefing from the IT ministry on existing laws and a future action plan.

Senator Fawzia Arshad said social media had become a serious concern for parents and required a collective response. She stressed the need for counselling in educational institutions to guide children and discourage harmful online behaviour.

"The age between 16 and 18 is very vulnerable and fragile," she said, adding that the problem could worsen without proper guidance. She also said civics and moral development were insufficiently covered in the curriculum.

Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Tariq Fazal Chaudhry described the matter as a national issue and said it should be referred to the relevant standing committee.

He said the issue was not limited to the IT ministry and involved the ministries of education and interior as well. He called for coordination among stakeholders to propose curriculum changes and appropriate restrictions for underage users in line with international practices. "This is not a challenge for Pakistan but an international issue," he said.

The minister said law enforcement and cybercrime institutions, including the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), should be engaged in efforts to address the issue.

"There is a need for a national debate to find a solution to save the underage children from the dangers (of social media)," he said.

Senator Sherry Rehman noted that Australia had introduced legislation to restrict social media use for children under 16, but said she was not in favour of blanket bans. Describing social media as an educational tool as well, she said the Senate should consider all aspects and proceed "judiciously".

PTI protest

Separately, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers criticised what they described as a continued ban on meetings with the party's founder Imran Khan, alleging violations of court orders.

Speaking on a point of order, PTI parliamentary leader Senator Barrister Syed Ali Zafar said former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, had been kept in solitary confinement for the past two months, calling it the "worst form of torture" prohibited under the Constitution, domestic laws and international human rights conventions.

He alleged that the jail authorities were effectively punishing the couple without trial, arguing that prolonged detention under harsh prison conditions amounted to punishment in itself. The cases against them were being used as political tools, he said.

Senator Zafar rejected the government's assertion that meetings were not allowed because visitors made political statements, saying this could not justify the denial of fundamental rights. "Legal rights cannot be suspended on political grounds," he said.

He told the House that, despite being legal counsel for Mr Khan, he was not being allowed to meet his client, describing this as a violation of the sanctity of the lawyer-client relationship and a denial of the right to legal defence.

PTI Senator Falak Naz also said Mr Khan had been kept in solitary confinement and that no one had been allowed to meet him for the past two months.

Law and Justice Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar said the jail superintendent had the authority to schedule meetings based on conduct. He pointed out that Adiala Jail fell under the jurisdiction of the Punjab government and that the federal government had no authority to issue directions in this regard.

The minister rejected the opposition's claim that Mr Khan was being kept in solitary confinement.

Separately, the House also discussed reports of tree cutting in Chitral, with Senator Naz alleging that the timber mafia continued illegal felling. Senator Sherry Rehman said Chitral had "turned brown from green" over the past two decades, adding that the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change would take up the issue in its next meeting.

Senator Tariq Fazal Chaudhry said forestry was a provincial subject but noted that the federal government could write to the provincial authorities.

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INVITATION TO E-BID

THROUGH SAP-ARIBA DISCOVERY

E-Bids are invited through SAP-Ariba Discovery for the service/material given below under competitive bidding procedure as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules:

SR #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDC-SCM-SERVICES-CB-SYS-60-3485-308080869-2026	SAP ERP OPERATION SUPPORT SERVICES	02.02.2026 AT 1030 HRS
2.	OGDC-SCM-LH-PT-PNP-UCH 309595755-2026	SUPPLY OF BEARINGS	02.02.2026 AT 1130 HRS
3.	OGDC-SCM-LH-PT-SYSTEM-I9-309587071-2026	RAM AND STORAGE OF SAP SERVERS	03.02.2026 AT 1130 HRS
4.	OGDC-SCM-FC-PROJ-KPD-PWDS-309306831-2026	HIRING OF SERVICES OF ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT CONSTRUCTION & COMMISSIONING (EPCC) CONTRACTOR FOR PRODUCED WATER DISPOSAL SYSTEM AT TAY AND SONO/LASHARI FIELDS, SINDH PROVINCE	10.03.2026 AT 1100 HRS

EXTENSION IN BID CLOSING & OPENING DATE

2. Reference our Tender Notice published in newspaper(s) on **10.12.2025** and **01.01.2026,** it is notified that the bid submission/opening date of the following case (s) has been extended as follows:

SR #	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	REVISED CLOSING DATE & TIME
1.	OGDC-FB-CB-PROD-305531602-2025	SMART COMPLETIONS WITH ACCESSORIES AND SERVICES	26.01.2026 AT 1100 HRS
2.	OGDC-SCM-SERVICES-PNP-60-3476-308021648-2025	ATA-2026 JOBS AT UCH-II PLANT, BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE	26.01.2026 AT 1100 HRS

3. Bidders who have already submitted/ sent their proposals (bids) may take them back and re-submit the same before the revised closing date and time mentioned above.
4. All bids will be opened 30 minutes after the bids closing date/ time.
5. Tender Notice/ detailed instructions are available on PPRA website at www.ppra.org.pk.
6. Tender documents are available online and bids are also required to be submitted online through e-procurement portal at https://ogdcl.com/sap-ariba-tenders or discovery.ariba.com/profile/AN01562899621 for details see "Instruction for Bidders Section" of the tender documents.
7. OGDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids as per Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) Rule-33.

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